#### **Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**



# MPA Size Evaluation Methods for the MLPA North Coast Study Region

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# Master Plan Guidelines: MPA Size

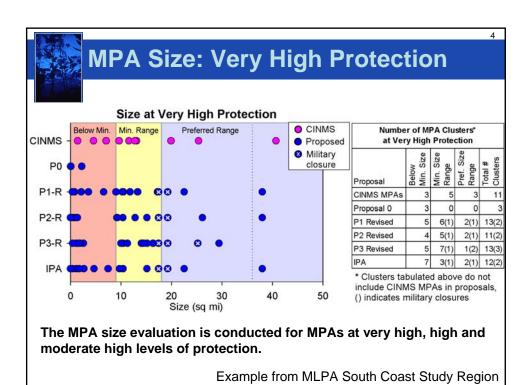
- MPAs should have an alongshore span of 5-10 kilometers (3-6 miles) of coastline, and preferably 10-20 kilometers (6-12.5 miles) to protect adult populations, based on adult neighborhood sizes and movement patterns. Larger MPAs should be required to fully protect marine birds, mammals, and migratory fish.
- MPAs should extend from the intertidal zone to deep waters
  offshore to protect the diversity of species that live at different
  depths and to accommodate the ontogenetic movement of
  individuals to and from nursery or spawning grounds to adult
  habitats.
- Combined and simplified, these two guidelines yield:
  Minimum range of 9-18 square miles
  Preferred range of 18-36 square miles

1



### **MPA Size Evaluation Methods**

- Measure individual MPA areas
- Consider level of protection (LOP; moderatehigh, high and very high)
- Combine contiguous MPAs of moderate high LOP or above into "MPA clusters"
- Tabulate MPA cluster areas relative to minimum and preferred guidelines
- Estuarine MPAs are not included in size evaluation



5



## **Summary**

#### **Approval sought for:**

- Methods for evaluation of MPA size to be inserted into the *Methods Used to Evaluate MPA Proposals in the North Coast Study Region* as Chapter 6.
- Evaluation of MPA size will be applied to round 1 evaluation of external MPA arrays – and subsequent rounds of evaluation of MPA proposals